[31st January 1961

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR: I am not talking about crimes when I put this suggestion. Why not treat it as an election offence, an offence punishable with 2,000 rupees fine or something like that? This is a simple question.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: That has already been examined. I am afraid there are different views on the subject and we are unable to say whether it would or would not offend article 19 (2) of the Constitution. Since there is no clear legal view on that question, Government are not able to proceed with it at all.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: These children are minors. They are below 17 years. It is these minors that are dragged into the elections. Are the Government aware of the fact that in Western countries there is an understanding among the political parties and also the Government that students should not be involved in any political propaganda and election work? Why not the Government here follow that?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Not only are the Government aware. I am personally aware that students in Western countries do not participate in any election work. But I thought that the restraint came more from the students and homes than from the Government.

State Transport buses from Madras to Mepur

* 48 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to run State Transport buses from Madras to Mepur; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (*a*) & (*b*) The Madras State Transport Department is operating two services on the route Madras–Mepur with effect from 1st September 1960.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: With reference to the answer given by the Hon. Minister yesterday, viz., that no shorter route was taken over by the Government Transport, how is it that this route was taken over?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The decision to run long-distance services was taken only in December 1960 and this was taken over in September 1960.

Sri Thiruvatheeswarar temple

* 49 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any instances of removal of contents of the Undi of Sri Thiruvatheeswarar temple at Triplicane, Madras, have been brought to the notice of the Government: and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?